Volume I, No. 3

GROUND ZERO APRIL 1993

Office: 1-719 635-6086
Fax: 1-719 635-6106

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Visibility 7p Office	2 This Child's Family Boulder 's Goddess Theatre Company (see below)	3 **Monthly Vigil** 7p Acacia Homosexuality & Bible 10-4 p
4	5	6 Media 6:30p Office	7 Boycott 6:30p Office Fundraising 6:45p	8 Visibility 7p Office Education 6:30p Poor Richard's	9 **Washington Sisters** 8p Armstrong Hall	10
11	12	13 **Monthly Lecture Series** Palmer Hall 7p (see below)	14 Fundraising 6:45p	15 Visibility 7p Office **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**	16	17 Homosexuality & Bible 10-4 p (see below)
18 **Membership** 6:30p **Town Meeting** Gaylord Room 7:30p	19 **BGALA** presents **Ani DiFranco** CC Gaylord 7p	20 Media 6:30p Office Political 6:30p Poor Richard's	21 Boycott 6:30p Office Fundraising 6:45p	22 Visibility 7p Education 6:30p **Smokebrush 8p Benefit SCAP**	23 **MOW** **Smokebrush 8p**	24 **MOW** **Smokebrush 8p**
25 **MOW**	26	27 Media 6:30p Office Networking 7:30p Poor Richard's	28 Fundraising 6:45p	29 Visibility 7p Office **Smokebrush 8p**	30 **Pueblo After2** Dance **Smokebrush** 8p **Benefit Ground Zero**	

Future dates,times and event information need to be dropped off at the Ground Zero office by the 15th . Thanks.....
Be a patriot !! Fill out the membership application on page 2 and join our fight against discrimination. Cost is only $10 !! And membership DOES have its privileges !!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CALENDAR EVENTS

MONTHLY VIGIL, Saturday, April 3, 7:00pm, Acacia Park Bon Voyage Party after Vigil for all those folks going to DC.

BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY CLASS Saturday, April 3 and 17, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Cost $15.00 for materials. Preregistration is required. Reservations can be made by calling the Ground Zero office at 635-6086. Classes will be held on the CC campus, Shove Chapel. Since the information from both days is vital to understanding this complex topic, we ask that registrants commit to attending both sessions. There will be a short break for lunch so bring your mid-day meal or munchies. The instructor is a Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church member who has done extensive research on the topics to be covered. The practice of our faith depends on our acceptance of ourselves as God has created us. This course, which relies upon the authority of the Bible, will address such topics as :Why Christians Have Difficulty with the Issue of Homosexuality, Unconditional Love, Promoting a Positive Self-Concept, God's Promises of Salvation, Origin and Growth of the English Bible, Principals of Understanding Scripture, The Creation Story, Sodom and Gomorrah, Levitical Law, What is Sin, Christ's Works on Judging Others, Paul's Central Message, The Beatitudes, and Examples of Same Sex Devotion.

THE WASHINGTON SISTERS WITH MELANIE MONSUR : LOCAL FEATURE KATHY DREILING
Benefit Concert, Friday, April 9, 8:00pm Armstrong Hall, Colorado College 14 E. Cache La Poudre
Tickets are $10.00 in advance or $12.50 at the door. Free to Colorado College students, faculty and staff but donations appreciated.
Fundraising concert with proceeds benefiting Ground Zero and their educational efforts to OVERTURN AMENDMENT 2. Ticket Outlets: Abaton Bookstore, Ground Zero Office, KRCC, Worner Hall, CC, Poor Richard's Cafe, Independent Records. Tickets can be purchased in Denver at Book Garden and Category 6.

MOW - March on Washington Come join us.... Call Academy Travel....Karen King at 598-5552, Landmark Travel....Terri Herzog at 577-4565, Washington,DC Accommodations 1-800-554-2220

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE....

SMOKEBRUSH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES MARVIN'S ROOM

This production runs the last two weekends in April: Thursday - Saturday, April 22-24, 8:00pm and Thursday - Saturday, April 29 - May 1, 8:00 pm. It will be presented at the Smokebrush Center for the Arts which is located at 235 S. Nevada in downtown Colorado Springs. Admission is $6.00 for Seniors/Students or $8.00 for general admission. Tickets will be available at the theatre box office. The Thursday, April 22 performance will be a benefit for the Southern Colorado AIDS project **Saturday, April 30th performance will be a benefit for Ground Zero.**

In this acclaimed and hilariously offbeat play, Scott McPherson takes an original look at the irrepressible nature of the human spirit in the face of death. His heroine, Bessie, has her hands full watching after her disabled aunt and trying to keep her bedridden father, Marvin, from swallowing Yahtzee dice. Bessie just wants to make their last few years as comfortable as possible. But when she is diagnosed with leukemia, it is Bessie who will have to learn to depend on others -- namely, her long-estranged sister and the arsonist nephew she may have to rely on for possible bone marrow transplant. Marvin's Room is a stunning recognition of how life does indeed go on.

MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES "CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES" Tuesday, 7pm, April 13, Gates Common Room, Palmer Hall, CC. The continuing monthly lecture series is sponsored by the Education Committee of Ground Zero.

BGALA presents a concert by **Ani DiFranco,** Monday, April 19, 7;00pm, Gaylord Room, CC Free! Open to everyone. Donations appreciated. Fundraising event will benefit those CC students driving to Washington DC for the march.

This Child's Family is presented by Goddess Theatre. This play is written by Amy Rubin and directy by Dylan Yates. The play will open March 26th and run Friday through Sunday nights until closing on Saturday , April 17th. All shows are at 8:00pm at the Guild Theatre, 4840 Sterling Drive, in Boulder. Call 303-444-0709 for more information.

Mail enclosed letter to the Colorado Bar Association or call 303-860-1112 . They need to hear from you!!!!!

Yes, I want to join Ground Zero in its fight against "2". Enclosed is $_____.
($10.00 is suggested, however if you can afford more it would be very appreciated. With a $10.00 membership you will receive GZ's monthly newsletter full of information.

Please, mark one of the following:
_____ Enter my name on your membership list.
_____ Accept this donation but do not place my name on your rolls at this time.

Name _____
Address _____
_____
Telephone # _____ (By including your phone #, you will be added to GZ's phone tree.)
You can also charge your donation/membership on Visa/Master Card

Card # _____ Expiration date _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Drop your donation/membership by the office or mail to Ground Zero P.O.Box 1982, Colorado Springs, Co. 80901

Thank you for your donation and support!

FOCUS ON THE COMMITTEES

From the ..... LEGAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Legal Assistance Committee needs members! This newly formed committee is looking for people, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, who are interested in following the legal aspects of Amendment 2 and other proposed amendments and legislation in the months ahead. We will also be building relationships with attorneys across the state and with the Lambda Legal Education and Defense Fund. We will be educating folks on the legal aspects of what's going on, as well as helping Ground Zero with its internal legal needs. And, speaking of education, please don't let the withdrawal of the Walta compromise get you down. Legally that compromise had the potential to harm gays and lesbians in the long run. There is also a very good chance that the Walta compromise is unconstitutional . Neither the Lambda Legal Education and Defense Fund nor the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was in favor of this amendment. We do not have to give up the rights guaranteed us by the U.S.Constitution in order to obtain a few tenuous rights. We will be able to do better for ourselves in the long run.

If you are interested in joining us, please call Ground Zero, 635-6086 for more information.

Also from the Legal Assistance Committee: During the meeting in Denver on March 7, gays and lesbians from around the state of Colorado listened to proponents of proposed constitutional amendments and legislation and voted a nonbinding vote on the proposals. The results are the following:

* The Walta proposal received 24 votes.
* The People for a Stronger Colorado proposal received 46 votes.
* The Williams proposal received 0 votes.

Outlines of these three proposals are available in the GZ office.

From the ..... VISIBILITY COMMITTEE

Wait till you see what we've got for D.C. Banners! 15 foot puppets! Rainbow pennants! But we need your help. **WORK PARTIES** are scheduled for April 5 & 7 at 6:30pm Come join us at 2418 W. Colorado Blvd above Michael Garmen Galleries. Free parking in the back. Let's celebrate in style!!!!

On Tuesday and Thursday throughout April, we will be working at the above studio from 6-10pm and probably anytime in-between. Be there or be straight ... Call Al at 632-2322 for more information.

Also from the Visibility Committee.... Women's Softball Team begins play on May 20. Schedule will come out in May newsletter. If interested in joining team, contact Linda at 392-5116 or leave a message at Ground Zero office.

BOOSTER CLUB !!!!!!

These businesses have given support to the Ground Zero softball team. Please, give them your support as well.....

Abaton Book	The Penthouse
Healing Touch Chiropractic	Center for Psychotherapy
Janice, the Barbette	Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center
Silent Thunder Woodworks	Poor Richards

If you are interested in becoming a **BOOSTER**, please call Linda at 392-5116. Thanks.....

From the ..... RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Help the Research Committee refute the lies of CFV! Join us in gathering information of a scientific, psychological and sociaological nature to disprove the lies of the infamous CFV "Tabloid". This information will be sent to groups in other cities and states who are facing pseudo-Amendment 2 movements. This may also be used in a K-GAY half hour radio presentation. Let's get the facts straight!(?). Contact Frank at 635-4623 for more information.

The Research Committee is also seeking information on sources for grants. If you are aware of organizations, corporations, foundations or other groups who are supportive of gay rights, please, let us know. Come join us at the next Research Committe meeting, April 7 and 28, 7pm at Poor Richards.

The office of Ground Zero is in need of several items to maximize its efficency. If you can donate any one or more of the items below, it would be appreciated.

GZ'S WISH LIST

1. File Cabinets.
2. Large monthly and yearly planners for events for office and meetings.
3. Manila envelopes, stamps, paper, etc... anything as far as office supplies.
4. Thermal fax paper.
5. Cash Box.
6. A stand to hold newspapers and handouts for the office, so we don't have to hang them on the walls.
7. A message board.
8. Anything else you can think of that may help the office become more productive.

THANKS !!!!

Community information regarding a local businessman from Bobby M.....

FYI..... I want to make sure that everyone is aware of what one local business person is doing to promote Amendment 2. Ed Bircham, owner of Bircham's Office Products, has been taking out advertisements in the Gazette Telegraph and the Colorado Springs Business Journal attacking gays, lesbians, lawyers, and people of color just to name a few... The ads are in poor taste: one example of his anti-homosexual feelings suggest that gays and lesbians are pedophiles by comparing them to tooth fairies who come into children's bedrooms and leave money. Sounds Bizarre? IT IS!!! Pick up a copy and read for yourself. Copies are in the GZ office. Call Bircham's Office Products 630-8600 or stop by at 3004 N. Nevada Avenue. Tell him how you feel about his ads and let him know that you and your company will take your business elsewhere. WE SHOULD NOT TOLERATE HIS INSINUATIONS !! THANKS

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT is sponsoring telephone hotline training for people to handle crisis situations within our community. Participants are urged to attend all four training sessions totalling 27 - 35 hours. The first training session will be held on :

April 1, Thursday, 6:30pm, RM 211, Worner Center on the Colorado College Campus. Instructor will be a Colorado Springs District Attorney.

April 3, Saturday, 10-5pm, Rm 257A, Worner Center on the Colorado College Campus. Instructor will be from the Denver Anti-Violence Project.

April 8, Thursday, 6:30pm, Rm 211, Worner Center on the Colorado College Campus. Instructor will be from the Colorado Springs Police Department.

April 10, Saturday, 10-5pm, Rm 257A, Worner Center on the Colorado College Campus.. Instructor will be from the Denver Anti-Violence Project..

HOT LINE PHONE NUMBER : 338-8899 , will be activated on **APRIL 1.....**

Contact Deb C. 389-0545 or call the Ground Zero Office for more information.

TELEPHONE SERVICE available..... Community Spirit is a Gay Owned Long Distance Service. They are offering a 2% return to the group of your choice (Ground Zero). For more information call them at 1-800-487-6877. Indicate that your are calling in regard to the special program set up to fight Amendment 2 and that you want to designate Ground Zero-Colorado Springs- as recipient of a donation. Spread the word, how much easier it can be to raise money for the cause.....

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Advisory Board to City Council

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

April 1, 1993

Ground Zero
P. O. Box 1982
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Dear Community Leader:

The Colorado Springs Human Relations Commission has three openings for people who are interested in serving the community. The mission of the Human Relations Commission is:

> **To promote mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic groups and to work to discourage and prevent prejudicial discrimination or unfair treatment against any group.**

It is important for a variety of qualified people to apply and interview for these openings. Only then will the Human Relations Commission be able to remain an active and viable advisory commission to the City Council and the community.

For application information, please contact Nancy Bramwell at 578-6600.

Sincerely,

Andi Leopoldus /ag

Andi Leopoldus
Chairperson
Human Relations Commission

TEL 719-578-6910
30 S. Nevada Ave. • Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

GROUND ZERO
PO Box 1982
Colorado Springs
Colorado 80901

PRESS RELEASE
February 4, 1993
Attribute to:
Frank Whitworth

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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment Emanating from Colorado Springs Business Community

Ground Zero is hopefully optimistic in regard the possibility that a compromise Amendment may be forthcoming to replace the discriminatory and unconstitutional Amendment Two. We are further pleased that this compromise is being sought by the business community of Colorado Springs.

Over the past several weeks, we have been consulted by and have contributed to discussions with this group and representatives from Ground Zero continue to maintain this contact. It is important that it be understood that the proposed amendment is in progress and that finalization of the wording is not yet an accomplished fact. There is a great deal of merit in the proposal but there are also areas that require further discussion and clarification.

Ground Zero will fully support this further effort to achieve common ground in regard a difficult and controversial question. We sincerely want to be able to endorse the final product and, thus, contribute to the elimination of the polarization that has gripped our community.

end

The Washington Sisters

with Melanie Monsur

Local Feature:

Kathy Dreiling

Benefit Concert

Bold. Joyful. The Washington Sisters bring an uplifting spirit of hope to audiences across the country. Their blend of a capella, jazz swing, blues, gospel and island rhythms provide a unique basis for their message of peace, women's rights, pride, and cultural diversity.

Friday April 9th
8:00 PM
Armstrong Hall
Colorado College
14 E. Cache La Poudre
Colorado Springs, Colorado

GROUND ZERO

Fundraising concert, proceeds to benefit Ground Zero and their educational efforts to overturn Amendment 2

Ticket Outlets:

Denver

Book Garden
Category 6

Colorado Springs

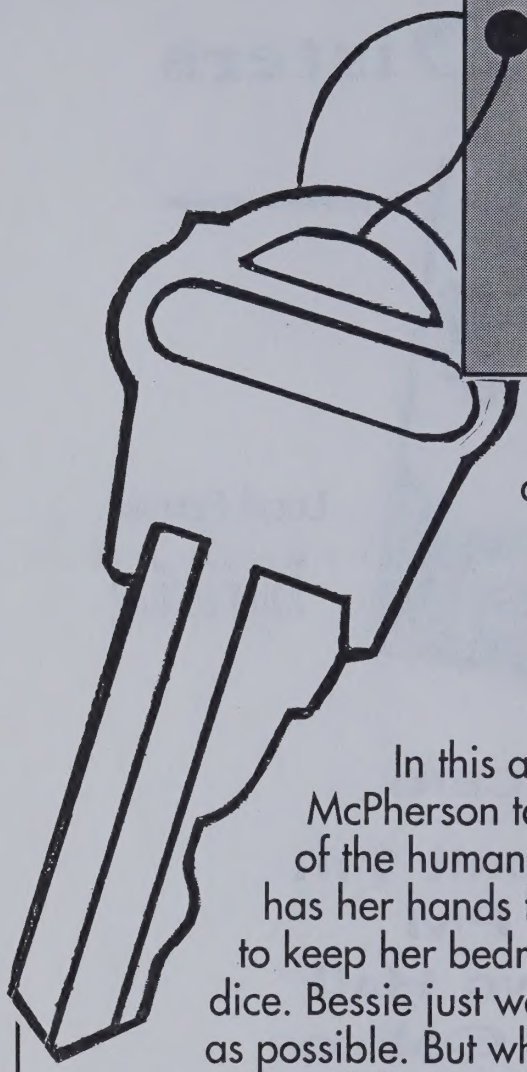
Abaton Bookstore
Ground Zero Office
KRCC
Worner Hall, CC
Poor Richard's Cafe
Independent Records

Sponsored by BGALA of CC

Tickets are $10.00 – in advance
$12.50 at the door

FREE to Colorado College Students, Faculty and Staff, Donations Appreciated

Designed By D'Addario Designs



MARVIN'S ROOM

"One of the funniest plays of the year,
as well as one of the wisest and most moving."
—Frank Rich, New York Times

"The ultimate comedy for the 90's."
—USA Today

In this acclaimed and hilariously offbeat play, Scott McPherson takes an original look at the irrepressible nature of the human spirit in the face of death. His heroine, Bessie, has her hands full watching after her disabled aunt and trying to keep her bedridden father, Marvin, from swallowing yahtzee dice. Bessie just wants to make their last few years as comfortable as possible. But when she is diagnosed with leukemia, it is Bessie who will have to learn to depend on others—namely, her long estranged sister and arsonist nephew she may have to rely on for a possible bone marrow transplant. Marvin's Room is a stunning recognition of how life does indeed go on.

Thurs.-Sat., April 22-24, 8PM • Thurs.-Sat., April 29-May 1, 8PM
STUDENTS/SENIORS **$6.00** GENERAL ADMISSION **$8.00**
Tickets available at theatre box office

Starring **ASHLEY CROCKET JANE FROMME PATTI SMITH**
Co-directed by **JAMES MALCOLM** and **TOM LINBLADE**
Set Design by **DONNA ARNINK** Costume Design by **GYPSY AMES**

Sponsored by
Springs Magazine

SMOKEBRUSH CENTER FOR ARTS AND THEATRE
235 South Nevada Avenue • 520-5643

Wiley Daniel, President
Colorado Bar Association
1900 Grant Street
Suite 950
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Bar Convention

Mr. Daniel:

The Bar Association's decision to move its 1993 convention back to Colorado Springs has sent some very destructive messages to gays and lesbians and the population in general:

--Money is more important than the rights of people, or at least more important than the rights of gays and lesbians.
--Bigotry and discrimination against gays and lesbians is really all right. Who cares if Colorado Springs won't welcome gay and lesbian lawyers--it appears that the Bar Association doesn't care about its gay and lesbian members anyway.
--The Bar has given the mayor of Colorado Springs approval to call gays and lesbians "queers" and discriminate against them. Either that, or the Bar Association is just a bunch of lying lawyers that lied about the mayor's remark. The Colorado Springs newspaper prefers to characterize the lawyers who revealed the mayor's remark as the latter.
--The Bar Association has no real moral convictions. Money outweighs everything. Everyone always says that about lawyers. Now the entire state Bar is proving it.

Discrimination and hate crimes against gays and lesbians in Colorado Springs and elsewhere are very, very real. In fact, some people will only be initialing their letters to you because of their fear of being identified as homosexual.

Mr. Daniel, had the mayor referred to blacks as "niggers" or to Jews as "kikes" or to women as "bitches" (or something worse), or had refused to welcome such members or any other minorities in the Bar, would you still have come back to Colorado Springs? Or is it that your organization simply doesn't care about the rights of homosexuals? Rights to be free of the fear of losing one's job, of being beaten up, just because someone is gay or lesbian?

JUSTICE. Isn't that a word that lawyers are supposed to believe in? Isn't that what lawyers are supposed to be fighting for? The Colorado Bar Association has clearly lost sight of justice, of rights for those who live in fear.

Please share this letter with the association.

_____ _____

City Name or Initials Date

==========

CLIP HERE AND MAIL LETTER

Please send letter to Wiley Daniel, President, Colorado Bar Association, 1900 Grant St, Suite 950, Denver, CO 80203.

A look at last month's activities.....

On March 16 along with other community members, I had the pleasure of listening to Suzanne Pharr speak. Suzanne is a social justice worker from the South. Since the 60's, she has been actively fighting against social injustice and continually works toward lesbian and gay liberation. Among her many credentials, Suzanne provided analysis, strategy, and support to local activists during the "No on 9" campaign held in Oregon this past November.

I have tried to recapture some of her thought provoking comments which I would like to share with you. If you have the opportunity to hear Suzanne Pharr speak in the future, don't miss it.....

We, as a community, must be vigilant to the agenda of the religious right. We must constantly be aware of their activities and strategies because they are masters at misleading the public and manipulating public perception. They would like the public to think they are focused on the family and the fight against homosexuality. This plan is merely a ploy to bolster their national agenda. They are using us, the homosexual community, to accelerate fears among the public in order for them to gain daily media coverage.

The big picture:

* Merge Church and State.
* Prevent ethnic and racial autonomy.
* Prevent women's rights.
* Prevent self-determination of gays and lesbians.
* Put a fundamental issue in every institution.

All those groups that get in the way of the religious right, such as people of color, women, independent thinking individuals, will be run over. Those groups who are not submissive will be dismantled. They, however, must first reverse the gains brought about by the civil rights movement, of which emerged the women's movement and the ADA (American Disabilities Act).

The dismantlement begins with the public school system. Two main vehicles of destruction are the voucher system and the constant attack of the public school system's curriculum. The voucher system would take public funds away from the traditional public school and funnel those dollars into Christian schools which are primarily segregated schools. How can you tell if there are Christian fundamentalists sitting on your school board? Is your school board embroiled in continuous controversy over such topics as HIV, condom dispersion, banning of specific books, sex education, multi-culturalism exposure etc?... If the answer is yes, there is a good possibility that members of your school board are fundamentalists.

Another process of dismantling will occur against multi-culturalism. All cultures should be viewed as viable. **When cultures are viewed as viable, you encounter critical thinking. Critical thinking is very powerful and destructive to the religious right.** The religious right looks toward authoritarianism as a means of thinking. Their thinking flows from a rigid line of authority connected with a white male god having power over all men (Men: gender specific, exclusive of women.) How can you have authoritarianism with critical thinking? **YOU DON'T!** You either have one or the other.

Pat Buchanan was quoted as saying that the abortion issue is dead and that he is now moving on to homosexuals. NOT TRUE - just a diversionary tactic to shift focus away from their agenda. We must be aware that the language the religious right uses is the language of racism. The use of special rights language is clearly out of racism. Anti-gay amendments, using special rights language, are popping up not only here but in Oregon, as well as 20 other states nationwide. We will see more and more of these amendments in coming elections. **When affirmative action rights are taken away from a class of people, that class does not have access to the tools against discrimination.**

The religious right, if successful, will eliminate justice and democracy as we know it. The religious right will also destroy critical thinking and autonomy, bit by bit, group by group. We, as a community, need to create a broad movement to keep participatory democracy intact and growing. How do we achieve this?

Continued on page 8.....

RECAP FROM THE USC DEBATE

On March 4, UCS hosted a debate to educate the campus populace on the issues of gays in the military, Amendment 2, and minority status issues. Representatives from Ground Zero as well as Colorado for Family Values answered questions generated by newspaper/journal articles and questions generated by the audience at large. CFV was represented by Will Perkins and Patricia (ex-lesbian, military). Ground Zero was represented by Alan C. and Robin L. A gigantic GAY thank you to Robin and Alan. Both of you represented GZ with professionalism , intellegence, style, grace, and composure. It was very apparent that the GZ side outshined all the rest!

The majority of questions were generated by the moderator, a student of USC. It was apparent from the beginning of the debate that the moderator was not unbiased in her presentation of "fact". One source of "fact" was taken from the *JOURNAL OF CHRIST* . This source focused on homosexuality and its guises. Upon learning the origin of these "facts" the audience complained only to be refuted by the moderator to "take it or leave it". Most of us left it!

I have tried to transcribe the questions and answers without bias or prejudice. Some areas of the video were extremely difficult to transcribe. No material was intentionally altered. We have selected only a few of the many questions and answers available.

How did Amendment 2 come about? Question directed to Will Perkins.....

Amendment 2 actually originated in the Spring of 1991. It was in response to the Human Relations Council in Colorado Springs who was advocating an ordinance in Colorado Springs which would give in essence civil rights status to sexual orientation. It would be similar to ordinances in Denver, Boulder and Aspen. Those of us who felt that was not an appropriate criteria for civil rights, in view of the fact that federal legislation never included sexual orientation in civil rights. We objected to that. Rather than to questions the legality of the ordinances that were in the Southern citites..., decided to give the state an opportunity to vote on the issue. We went through the petition process, gathered 75,000 signatures. It was on the ballot. ...The state, presently, is that the Amendment is in the Constitution.....

How do homosexuals fit into the class or groups outlined in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ? Question directed to Alan .....

.....I can express it from a personal point of view. I think that we do have a distinguishing characteristic that is pretty obvious. We, unlike the majority of the population, have an interest, love, or sexual partner of the same gender. That distinguishes us pretty obviously from the population and that is the basis for which we are sitting here tonight. We have been set apart in some ways and we have set ourselves apart as people who love the same gender. There is an issue of the majority that this is inappropriate and that it is unnatural. We are basing a law on the premise that because we are different that somehow that is not appropriate. Seems like the basis for discrimination.

The question was so difficult to understand from the tape I could not transcribe it however I thought Alan's comments were so well made that I would like to share them with you. This comm ent was diected to Will Perkins.

....I watch the community at large struggle through this issue and some of that is their personal struggle. I acknowledge that. From that compassion and all that you say, if it is not an issue then why not allow a group who feels oppressed, whether real or not, to have the opportunity for full participation and have that support if there is no desire to discriminate, if there is no desire to oppress a group of people. Why not just do the reverse and support them fully in being fully themselves and fully self expressive and fully integrated in socie ty that they feelis antagonistic?

Will Perkins reply.....Alan, to my knowledge there is no laws prohibiting you to do exactly that. In discussing this issue with homosexuals, they told me things like this, "You don't know what its like not to be able to show your expression of your love for your lover or whaterve." I can understand that. They say "We can't kiss him godbye, we can't walk down the street and hold hands and thinkgs like that." And I say, I know of no reason why you con't do that. And you know what they tell me, "Yes, and we knwo what people are thinking." Now, you want to pass laws to control what people think? and I say, Alan that you have the right and the opportunities to live your life, express yourself, but just don't come and say because of that I wan t something special.

Alan's reply.... So are you saying there that you would support the idea of making legal gay marriages and insurance codes?

Will Perkins reply.... No, I would not. The reason I would not do that because alot of the problems that we are having in this country today is the deterioration in the nuclear family. and becuase you are a therapist I know you would agree to that. Educators say the same thing. We should be doing things to strengthen the traditional families. Homosexuals have an agenda to completely redo the definition of family.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

In the Articles to the U.S.Constitution, James Madison clearly states that the best protection for everyone is by increasing diversity, by having so many groups and groupings that no one group can hold significant power over other groups. How you do feel about this? Question directed to Will Perkins.....

I am not sure I understand what you are saying. The idea is certainly not a new one. The idea of not being able to have these things being purported in some circles today, that in order to exist in society that we have, you really can't have any beliefs of your own. And to say the different diversity is a matter tolerance and tolerance goes both ways. I haven't heard anybody talking about any lack of diversity or lack of tolerance. From our perspective, that is not the issue at all. The issue sometimes people might say to you, you need to be open-minded but you can be so open minded that your brains fall out. There has to be a sense of value, there has to be a sense of justice, there has to be a freedom of association, everyone's.

If the ban on gays is lifted, how will the military deal with the spread of HIV and AIDS? Question directed to Robin..
I keep seeing recurrances in the media, newspaper and television, about ...gay military and lesiban military transferring HIV, AIDS, to the rest of the military populace. There are specific standards in the military armed services for this. First of all, no one enters into the military without having an HIV test. Those that are positive, don't get in. Secondly, all members of the military forces are tested yearly or bi-yearly depending upon your MOS specialty for AIDS. If you go overseas, you are given an up-to-date HIV test also..... Once a soldier has come up positive for HIV, no matter of his sexual orientation, he is automatically taken out of combat, any combat positions and he is sent statside. He is also kept out of special combat school anywhere that soldier may cause a threat to the rest of the cohesiveness of the unit or to himself, not being able to be medically treated for instance. So if the military follws their own military regulations, there should be no problem with the transference of AIDS.... regarding blood transfusions....Battlefield blood transfusions are almost an extinct situation in the military today. Our combat roles have changed dramatically. Those types of things don't happen expect for a very, very rare occasion. We are well equipped. We have our own hospitals. We have our own blood supplies fully tested for the HIV virus.

An article was shown on the screen about a military officer who sexually molested a subordinate. The commanding officer violently abused this soldier. How can this type of behavior be eliminated if gays are allowed to enlist in the military forces? Question directed to Alan....

You asked when this type of violence will stop and certianly it would be categorized as violence rather than something categorized as loving and sexual. I think it will stop when people learn to respect each other, honor each other, no matter what their sexual orientation, sexual identity, what their gender is. We see with the Air Force Academy, where we have a number of women claimed sexual harassment from men. And yet we do not single out the entire heterosexual community and say, "Oh, well, this must be specific to heterosexuals." But we are more that willing to separate out the homosexual community and say "Ah, this must be a characteristic of all homosexuals because somebody was abusive to another human being."

An audience member shares his cowboy experience. He feels that he has been discriminated against as a cowboy. He is happy to be a cowboy however he isn't asking for any speical rights so why should homosexuals? Question directed to our "cowboy" Alan.....

I agree with you actually. I think that you have every right to be a cowboy and I have every right to be a gay man and I realize that people have discriminated against you. I like to wear boots and to be a cowboy and I'm a Texan from a small town . And I've been discriminated against for being a Texan. I think they are pretty discriminated against in Colorado, by the way. I acknowledge that...But in all honesty, I haven't faced a whole lot of discimination as a gay person. I think that it's not the issue in some way. We have made it a legal issue because it's been pushed up from the other side. If you were personalized as a cowboy and someone on the other side says, I'm sorry but you cannot claim discrimination becuase you are a cowboy, you might feel alittle differently about it... I would ask people that are cowboys, certainly it is something that I choose or do not choose to do, to look at their sexuality alittle more closely. I am willing to acknowledge that sexuality is a choice. And that is exacly where the statement goes. I would have not acknowledged that sexual identity and sexual orientation as a choice if we're going to say that homosexuality is a choice, then let's be fair. As a psychotherapist, I have to be fair.....if homosexuality is a choice than heterosexuality is a choice. And we each have to search in our hearts to determine at what level we made that choice. If we made that choice and we actually walked out one day and said, I like that gender, I acknowledge that you did that. If however you grew up, you assimilated into your parents' belief.....you did all the things that you do in your life and you simply don't remember making that kind of a choice, I am asking you to allow other people to have that same privilege and acknowledge the same possibility for them. I certainly chose to be a cowboy. I put on the boots, I put on the hat and I did just that. I did not choose to be a Texan, and I don't remember choosing to be gay. Maybe I did but maybe I didn't. And I am wondering why in our society that we have lost the ability to give the benefit of the doubt and allow people to fully express who they are. It is an interesting question. (Directed to Will Perkins) You had asked earlier, why has the family disintegrated. Now I agree with you it has. I think it has little to do with sexual orientation. I think it has a great deal to do with the fact that we have lost the concept of loving each other. We have lost the concept of communicating with each other rather than at each other. I think it has alot to do with the fact that we no longer honor each other as human beings. We have become an us and them and we need to move back into an us.

Continued from page 5.

How do we achieve keeping the participartory democracy intact and growing? By following these steps:

1. By understanding the religious right's issues. Take them seriously. We must develop our own issues, create our own vision. We must, above all, stop acting as a result of a crisis. Move beyond putting out "brush fires". Continuously ask ourselves, "What do we want to create and how?"

2. Build a broad based coalition. Make our grass roots organization **internally strong**. We must begin to link with other progressive groups in town, statewide and nationally. When linking a broad base coalition together, nationally, the gays and lesbians must have equal interst in civil rights. We must become involved beyond Tejon Street and the Ground Zero office.

3. We need to create our agenda. The religious right controlled the public debate focusing on such fears as pedophilia and special rights. We must create our own agenda. Our issues are not debatable. The debate format to discuss our agenda is not appropriate.

4. Don't overlook people who are ready to devote their talents to our cause. No **body** should be left out from participating. Everyone has something to offer and contribute. Discover what it is. Use every talent available.

5. We need to discover why the religious right was so successful.

Several suggestions were considered:

* Nationally, we are living in a volatile climate. People have very intense economic fears.

* The fears of economic uncertainty are co-mingled with changes in demographics (people of color, wormen, gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.)

* Homophobic fears and heterosexism.

* The ignorance and fear of sexuality.

The religious right successfully played directly into these fears. The religious right claimed that by granting minority status, the homosexuals will take away jobs, molest children, run rampant, etc.....

What will it take to overcome these fears? **MASS EDUCATION !** There is a need to educate the public on:

What is the cause of the current economic climate?
What is really happening to jobs?
Who are these gay, lesbian, and bisexual people? (Important to put faces with these distinction.)
What is heterosexism and homophobia?

After the main lecture, Suzanne challenged the audience to interact in a strategy session by constantly asking the audience... What is the purpose here? What is it that we want to get out of the press? What do we want to achieve? What is the role for direct action?

She closed the Town Meeting by telling us that we, the gay, lesbian and bisexual community, is in a grand moment of time. We will never have a better moment to raise a movement. It is our chance to build!!! Gays and lesbians are on the lips of everyone. She offered us encouragement for being in the **"heart of the beast"** and reminded us **not to let the gathering of the religious right define the limits of our vision.**

We should never forget to have fun!!!!!